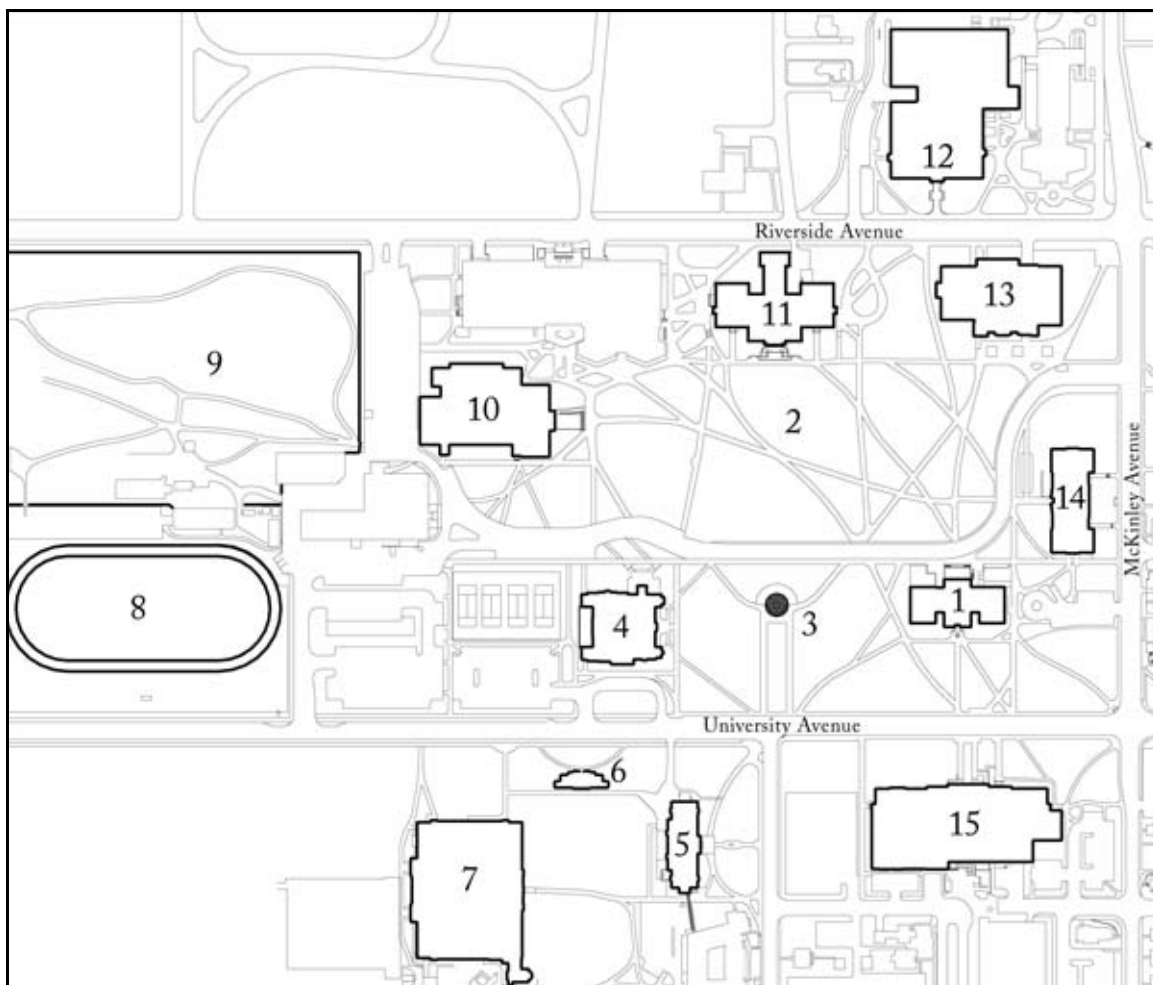


## HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR OLD QUADRANGLE BALL STATE UNIVERSITY



### HISTORY OF THE OLD QUADRANGLE

The story of Ball State began in the 1890s, when a group of local businessmen decided that a college was needed in Muncie to counteract the effects of industrialization on the city. These entrepreneurs bought approximately one hundred acres in the area that became known as Normal City, and they divided most of it into lots for homes.

Near the center of the tract, ten acres bounded by McKinley Avenue, Jarret Street, Talley Street, and Reeves Avenue (now University Avenue) were reserved for the college, known originally as Eastern Indiana Normal University. Anyone who purchased a lot in the development received two free semesters at the school, and half of the money raised by the lot sales was earmarked for campus improvements.

The Administration Building (1898) and Forest Hall (1902), a dormitory, were constructed to house the university, but the school closed in 1902 due to low enrollment and financial difficulties. Several other colleges were opened on the site in the following years, but all quickly failed.

In 1918 the five Ball brothers, who were local industrialists, purchased the foreclosed school at an auction and presented it, along with sixty acres, to the State of Indiana. The school reopened that same year as the Eastern Division of the Indiana State Normal School in Terre Haute. In 1922 the school's name changed to Ball Teachers College to honor the generosity of the Ball brothers.

A great campaign of building began shortly thereafter, centered around the Quadrangle and financed largely by the Ball family. In later years the school's boundaries were greatly expanded to the north and the east of its original site, but the Old Quadrangle remains the historic and symbolic center of campus.

### **1. TOUR STOP: ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

This Neoclassical style structure is the oldest building on campus. It was constructed in 1898 at a cost of \$33,000 to house the Eastern Indiana Normal University, a precursor to Ball State. For several years it was the only building on the normal school campus and as such housed classrooms, offices, the library, and the bookstore.

The interior of this building has been remodeled to suit today's needs, but at the time of construction it was considered very modern. According to an 1899 school catalog, the building featured lavatories, gas heating and lighting, and a "force ventilator which changes the entire volume of air in each room every fifteen minutes."



### **2. OLD QUADRANGLE**

This open area is part of the original portion of the campus; the Administration Building was built on its southeastern edge. Buildings constructed on campus in the 1920s and 1930s ringed and further defined this central area. The landscaping is informally designed, with irregularly spaced trees and paths. Many of the trees were planted throughout the decades as part of Arbor Day celebrations or as memorials and class gifts.

### **3. BENEFICENCE**

In its almost sixty years on campus, this bronze statue has become the symbol of Ball State. It was the last commissioned work of Daniel Chester French, best known as the sculptor of the Abraham Lincoln statue in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The settings and columns for Beneficence were designed by prominent East Coast architect Richard Henry Dana.

The statue was commissioned by the Muncie Chamber of Commerce as a public monument to the generosity of the Ball brothers, each of whom is represented by one of the five Corinthian columns. The statue was completed in 1930 and installed in 1937.

#### 4. LUCINA HALL

This building was constructed in 1927 as a women's dormitory. Prior to that time, male and female students had shared dormitory space in Forest Hall, which was razed in 1941. The \$150,000 cost of construction was paid by the Ball brothers, and the building was named for their sister, Lucina Ball. The building was designed by George Schreiber in the Tudor Gothic mode and was styled to match the Library and Assembly Hall (now North Quad), which was under construction at the same time.

In 1973-74 Lucina Hall was converted to office space and now houses the admissions, registrar, and bursar offices, among others.

#### 5. ELLIOTT HALL

Constructed from 1937-39 in the Tudor Gothic style, this was the first men's dormitory on campus. It was designed by prominent Chicago/Indianapolis architect George Schreiber, best known for his Scottish Rite Cathedral in Indianapolis. The structure cost almost \$400,000 to build and featured an ornate Jacobean interior, most of which remains intact.



Funds to build Elliott Hall were provided by the Ball family as a memorial to Frank Elliott Ball, who died in an airplane crash in 1936. Sealed in the cornerstone are a picture of him, a copy of his obituary, a Bible, an American flag, and a miniature airplane.

#### 6. ACADEMY HOUSE

This Colonial Revival style building has served as the offices for Ball State's alumni association, university relations, and other departments over the years, but it originally housed fifteen apartments. The complex was named Elliott Apartments for Frank Elliott Ball, who financed its construction in 1930 and for whom Elliott Hall also is named. Before construction began, Ball instructed Muncie architect Herbert Smenner to travel widely and find a design that would be distinctive yet look enough like a home to fit harmoniously into the residential surroundings of its original location at 700 North McKinley Avenue.

The university purchased the building in 1965 and remodeled it for office use. In 1999 the university moved the central portion of the building from McKinley Avenue to its current site, where it now houses offices for the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities.

#### 7. BURRIS SCHOOL

This Collegiate Gothic style building was constructed in 1928-29 and named for Benjamin Burris, a former president of Ball Teachers College. The architectural firm of Snyder and

Babbitt designed the building, which cost approximately \$390,000. The laboratory school provided a convenient training ground for students studying to become teachers, and it served as a social and recreational center for the community. Burris originally was a public school serving students from kindergarten through senior high, and it remains so today.

The building has undergone a number of additions and renovations throughout the years, most recently in the early 1990s, when the facilities were upgraded to accommodate the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities.

## 8. ATHLETIC FIELD

The facilities here were completed in 1928 and provided an area for a wide array of athletic and other activities. According to the 1942-43 course catalog, the facilities included a quarter-mile track; baseball, football, soccer, hockey, and speedball fields; horseshoe and croquet courts; an archery range; four clay and all-weather tennis courts; and jumping pits for men and women.

A concrete grandstand faced the baseball diamond, and wooden bleachers surrounded the football field. Floodlights made night games possible, and the area also was used for plays, pageants, and other performances. The football team played here until the mid-1960s, when the current stadium was constructed on the north end of campus.

## 9. CHRISTY WOODS

Known simply as the Arboretum in its early years, this seventeen-acre tract of land on the southwest edge of campus contained more than 300 species of trees, shrubs, and flowers. These plants were used for scientific and educational studies by faculty members and students. In 1940 the Arboretum was renamed Christy Woods to honor Dr. Otto Christy, the former head of the science department who had been responsible for designing most of the campus landscaping. A greenhouse was added to serve the biology department in 1951.

Dr. Christy explained the benefits of having this natural area on campus: "Here we may feel the uplift of the environment and, little by little, begin to realize that the supreme factors of life . . . are the result of our meditation in an atmosphere of beauty, quietness, and charm."

## 10. BALL GYMNASIUM

This gymnasium for men and women was built in 1925 in the Collegiate Gothic style. The designer was Cuno Kibele, a Muncie architect whose firm also was responsible for the Burkhardt Building. The construction cost of approximately \$400,000 was provided by the Ball family, and Edmund Ball was on hand most days to personally supervise the work.



From 1925 to 1963, the Ball Teachers College Cardinals (or Hoosieroons, as they were first dubbed) played all their home basketball games here. Coaching legend Branch McCracken and players such as Ray Ashley, Marvin Heaton, and "Easy Ed" Butler were just a few of the stars from this era. With the construction of a new physical education building in 1963, Ball

Gym became used primarily as a women's gym. An extensive restoration/renovation was completed in 1997.

## 11. FINE ARTS BUILDING

Prior to the Great Depression, plans were drawn up for an Arts Center on campus to house the art and music departments and an art gallery. A state moratorium on spending in 1932 put a stop to these plans, however, and it was not until 1935 that enough money was received through the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works to begin construction. George Schreiber, who also designed Elliott and Lucina Halls on campus, was the architect of the Collegiate Gothic style building.

After its construction, the Fine Arts Building also housed the foreign language, English, and social science departments. The Frank Ball art collection formed the nucleus of what became the university's art museum. Today the building contains the museum, classrooms, offices, and Recital Hall, a fine Renaissance-style auditorium.

## 12. APPLIED TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

Designed by Walter Scholer, this late Collegiate Gothic style building was constructed from 1950 to 1954 to house the business education, home economics, and industrial arts departments. This was the first permanent structure that had been built on campus since 1938. According to contemporary newspaper accounts, the building contained state-of-the-art facilities and features, including "floating" walls, soundless hardwood floors, and shadowless lighting.

The central gable facing Riverside Avenue originally was topped by a limestone griffin that symbolized vigilance. The figure was unpopular on campus, however, and was removed and replaced by a ball shortly after the building's completion.

## 13. NORTH QUADRANGLE BUILDING

Originally known as the Library and Assembly Hall, this Gothic style building with battlements and tower was constructed in 1926. It was built because of complaints about crowding and insufficient hours in the original library, which was housed in the Administration Building. The Assembly Hall was used by both the college and the community.

Even this new library space was quickly outgrown, however, and the building was expanded in 1932, 1955, and 1959-60. In 1966-67 the Assembly Hall was converted to library space. With the construction of Bracken Library in 1975, North Quad was converted to classroom and office space.



#### 14. BURKHARDT BUILDING

This building was designed in 1922 by the Muncie firm of Kibele and Garrard and is the second oldest remaining building on campus. It originally was called Science Hall and housed thirteen science departments ranging from agronomy to zoology.



In 1976 Science Hall was renamed East Quadrangle, and ten years later was named the Burkhardt Building to honor longtime administrator Richard W. Burkhardt. The building, which originally cost \$300,000 to build, underwent a \$3.5 million rehabilitation in the early 1980s.

#### 15. STUDENT CENTER

The L.A. Pittenger Student Center was built in stages between 1950 and 1961. Walter Scholer of Lafayette, Indiana, was the architect for this Collegiate Gothic style building.

The original center, now at the east end of the building, cost approximately \$1.25 million to build. Most of this money was raised through donations from students, alumni, and faculty, staff, and community members; no state funds were appropriated for the project.

Today the building houses a food court, a ballroom, lounges, recreation areas, conference rooms, and organization offices, much as it did when it was built. The structure also includes a 24-room hotel.